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Docket Number 50-346

License Number NPF-3

Serial Number 2816

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United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555-0001

Subject: Condition Report Regarding Preliminary Results From Analysis of Incore Nozzle
Samples

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On October 9, 2002, the staff of FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company (FENOC) held a conference call with the NRC staff regarding a Condition Report (CR) self-initiated for the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station (DBNPS), Unit Number 1, documenting preliminary results from the analysis of incore nozzle samples. This letter, requested by the NRC staff, provides the description of the condition in the CR discussed in the conference call.

In summary, an Extent of Condition inspection of the 52 Incore Instrumentation Guide Tubes was performed under procedure EN-DP-01500 (previously Inspection Plan IP-M-030). This inspection identified that a number of the Incore Guide Tube penetrations had boric acid residue and rust/corrosion stains around the annulus area. Following this inspection, and discussions with Framatome, samples were taken from the rust/corrosion stain and a boric acid residue trail on the side of the reactor vessel and from 12 select tubes. These samples were sent to Framatome for analysis to determine if the source of the material around the incore nozzles could be identified as either runoff from cleaning of the head or potential leakage from the incore nozzle itself.

Framatome has preliminarily indicated that there are conflicting indications regarding whether or not the flow trail and nozzle deposits could have been from a common source, and that it is not possible to definitively conclude with the available information that the flow trail and nozzle deposits had a common source. Some of Framatome's preliminary analysis results indicate

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different origins for the flow trail and nozzle deposits suggesting a potential incore nozzle leak. Discussions with Framatome and FENOC personnel indicate these results may also be due to sampling uncertainties.

FENOC wishes to emphasize that the information contained in this CR is preliminary information based on a draft report. FENOC and Framatome are continuing to evaluate this matter. If the final results of the evaluation indicate that there may be an incore nozzle leak, FENOC will take appropriate corrective action.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Patrick J. McCloskey, Manager - Regulatory Affairs, at (419) 321-8450.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ken W. Myers".

MKL

Enclosure

cc: J. E. Dyer, Regional Administrator, NRC Region III
J. B. Hopkins, NRC/NRR Senior Project Manager
C. S. Thomas, NRC Region III, DB-1 Senior Resident Inspector
Utility Radiological Safety Board

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Enclosure

COMMITMENT LIST

THE FOLLOWING LIST IDENTIFIES THOSE ACTIONS COMMITTED TO BY THE DAVIS-BESSE NUCLEAR POWER STATION (DBNPS) IN THIS DOCUMENT. ANY OTHER ACTIONS DISCUSSED IN THE SUBMITTAL REPRESENT INTENDED OR PLANNED ACTIONS BY THE DBNPS. THEY ARE DESCRIBED ONLY FOR INFORMATION AND ARE NOT REGULATORY COMMITMENTS. PLEASE NOTIFY THE MANAGER – REGULATORY AFFAIRS (419-321-8450) AT THE DBNPS OF ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS DOCUMENT OR ANY ASSOCIATED REGULATORY COMMITMENTS.

COMMITMENTS

DUE DATE

None

N/A